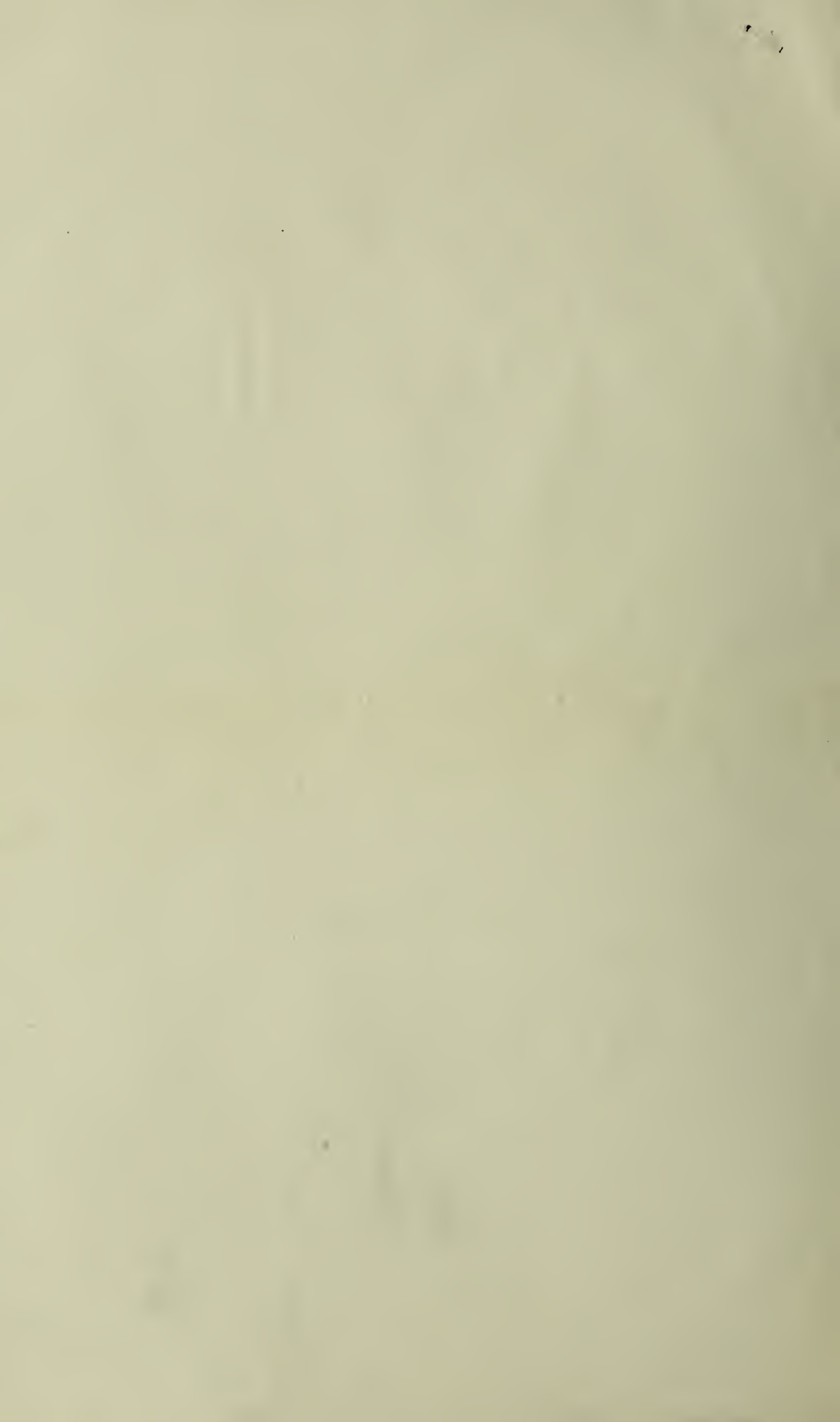


1937

BROADWOODWIDGER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER



BROADWOODWIDGER RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER.

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Mr.Chairman & Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for
1937:-

SECTION A.- Statistics & social conditions.

TABLE I.

Population	2,014
Area	29,294 acres.
No. of inhabited houses	560
Product of Penny Rate	£17. 18. 2
Chief Industry	Agriculture

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Rate per</u> <u>1000.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>
<u>BIRTHS:-</u>	31	18	13	15.53	14.9
<u>Live Births:-</u>					
Legitimate	30	18	12)	"	"
Illegitimate	1	-	1)		
<u>Still-Births:-</u>					
Legitimate	-	-	-)	-	.6
Illegitimate	-	-	-)		

TABLE II. (continued)

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
<u>DEATHS:-</u>	26	12	14	12.12 (adjusted)	12.4
<u>Deaths from:-</u>					
Sepsis	Nil		}	-	3.25
Other Puerperal	Nil				
<u>Death rate under one year:-</u>					
Legitimate	1	-	1)	64.	58.
Illegitimate	-	-	-)		
<u>Deaths from:-</u>					
Measles (all ages)	Nil			-	.02
Whooping cough	Nil			-	.04
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil			-	5.8

TABLE III.

Causes of the 26 deaths as
classified by the Registrar
General.

<u>Name of Disease.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Acute & Chronic Nephritis	1	-
Congenital debility, premature birth.	-	1
Senility	-	2
Other violence	2	-
Other defined diseases	1	1
Heart disease	1	2
Other circulatory diseases	-	2
Pneumonia	1	-
Other respiratory	1	-
Appendicitis	1	-
Influenza	-	3
Tubercle (respiratory)	-	1
Cancer	4	2
	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>

TABLE IV.

Sanitary Section.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To The Chairman & Members of the
Broadwoodwidge Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration the
Annual Report and Summary of Work carried out during
the year 1937:-

HOUSING.

During the year plans for two Council houses at
St.Giles-in-the-Heath were approved by the Ministry and
tenders invited. The Well on the site was sunk early in
the year and an abundant supply of water found. The
Council appreciate the generosity of Mr. J. Molesworth
St.Aubyn for his gift of the site.

The Housing Committee inspected various sites in
the Parish of North Petherwin for the erection of two Council
houses. A suitable site was selected and negotiations
started with the owner for the sale of same.

Six outstanding Notices under Section 19 of the
Housing Act 1930 have been dealt with as follows:-

- (a) 2 Cottages at Petherwin Gate re-conditioned under
the Housing (Rural Workers') Acts.
- (b) 1 Cottage at Downgate, North Petherwin, in course
of re-conditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers')
Acts, since completed.
- (c) 1 Cottage at Bole's Bridge, North Petherwin -
undertaking from owner that work of re-conditioning
will be started by 1st May 1938.
- (d) 1 Cottage at Lower Moor, Broadwoodwidge - closed
for habitation.
- (e) 1 Cottage at Norton Gate, Virginstowe (now vacant) -
undertaking accepted not to re-let.

A further Cottage at Middle Wheatley, North
Petherwin, which was unfit for occupation, is in
course of re-conditioning under the Housing
(Rural Workers') Acts - no formal action was taken
in this case.

Housing (Rural Workers') Acts.

This Act is administered by the Devon County
Council, whose policy of working in close conjunction with
the District Council has been maintained.

In all, 9 Cottages have been re-conditioned under
this Scheme, and two more were in course of re-conditioning

at the end of the year.

There is room for more work under this Act in the District and it is to be hoped that property owners will avail themselves of the generous benefits offered. I trust that Councillors will use their influence to persuade friends to, at any rate consider, the advantages of re-conditioning their agricultural cottages under this Act. Any help which I am able to offer landlords will be given readily.

New Houses.

The following plans were passed:-

- 2 Agricultural Cottages at Broadwood Village.
- 1 Conversion of Old Church Room to Bungalow at Broadwood.
- 1 Bungalow at Langdon.
- 1 Agricultural Cottage at Horrel Farm.
- 2 Council Cottages at St.Giles-in-the-Heath.

The following have been completed:-

- Bungalow at Marshall, Werrington.
- Two Agricultural Cottages at Broadwood Village.
- One conversion of Church Room at Broadwood.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 205 Cowkeepers on the Register and 47 remain registered as Retailers, although few actually do any retailing of milk.

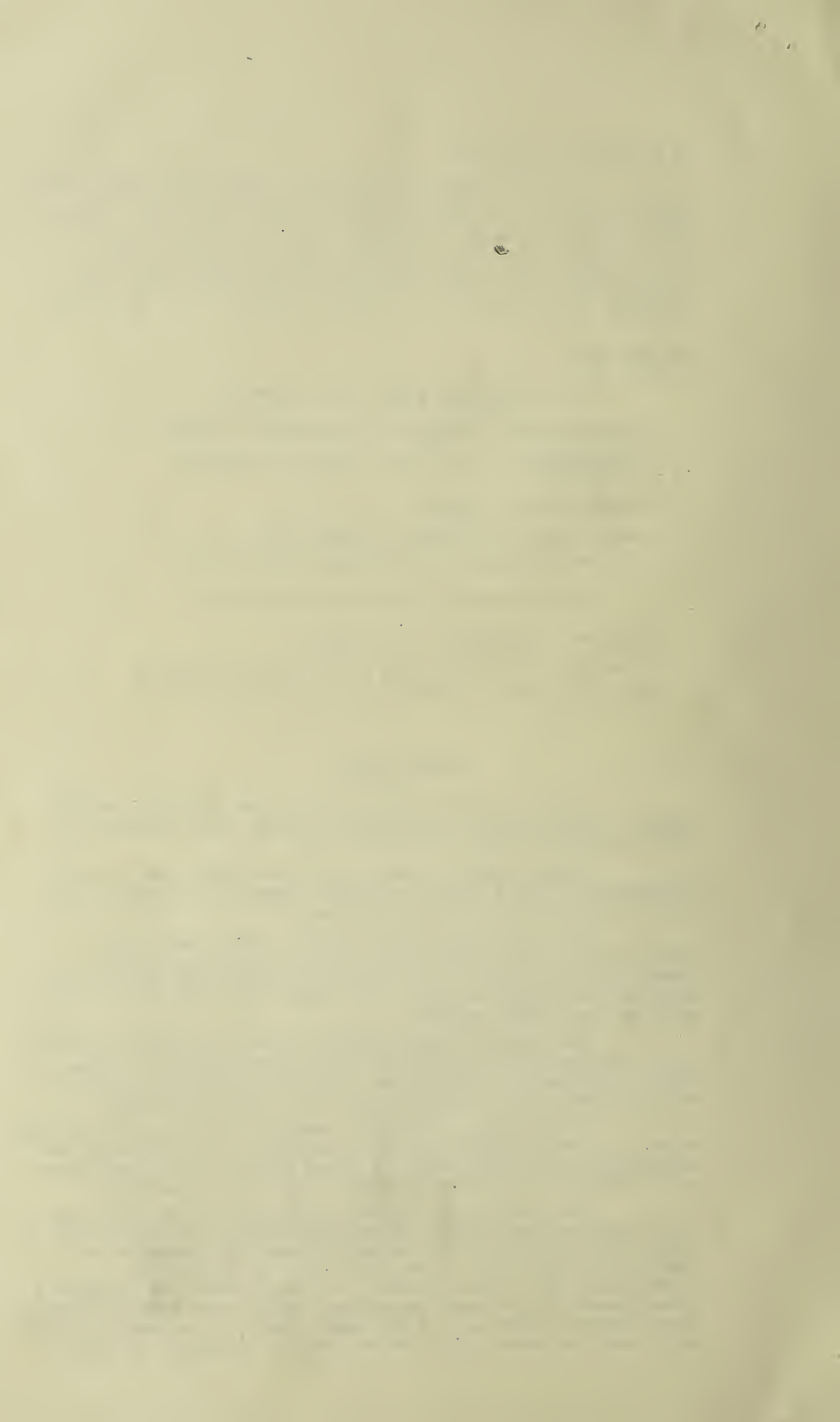
There are only two Accredited Producers, a most disappointing fact which in itself shows the apathy of the local cowkeepers to milk production.

In a District such as this, where nearly the whole of the milk produced is sent to Factories, many producers are inclined to treat milk production as a side line and not take the care they might have done had it been sold on the liquid market.

Much of the milk produced comes from smallholders and cottagers who keep two or three cows in small sheds, which, although not coming up to the standard for light and ventilation, are frequently kept in a clean condition.

To obtain a clean milk supply the method of milking must be correct. Good sheds are a great asset and help to raise enthusiasm for pride in clean milking, but good sheds alone will not necessarily mean clean milk production.

We have in our District many producers with fine buildings and excellent milking technique; many more with good buildings which are wasted because the producer is ignorant of the most elementary rules of clean milk production; and, unfortunately, a large number of producers whose cowsheds are most unhygienic, with poor rubble floors, inefficient channels, bad drainage, dark and generally dirty, and, what is worse, they themselves are ignorant of clean



milking methods and completely indifferent to the whole subject.

If some of these "don't care" producers in the District (other Districts have them as well!), would only give clean milking methods a fair trial for a month by devoting a few extra minutes each day in grooming their cows, washing the udders, rejecting the first squirt of milk from each teat (which obviously must be full of germs), keeping their hands and clothing clean, and seeing that their milking utensils have been properly sterilised, they would find something fascinating about clean milking and would have no desire to return to their old methods. They would realise they were working under a big disadvantage with poor floors, bad channels, inefficient lighting etc., and, for their own convenience, would have these defects rectified without any pressure from the Local Authority.

In my opinion, the ideal time to educate the younger generation to take an interest in clean milking methods is when they are at School; and I feel sure that a few interesting lectures given every term to the senior children in Rural Schools would have beneficial effect.

The milk producer with dirty cows and buildings who makes not the slightest effort to produce a reasonably clean article of food should receive no sympathy. He should be warned; and if no improvement takes place, he should be prosecuted and removed from the Register.

During the year 149 visits were made for the purpose of inspecting Cowsheds and Dairies. Six Cowsheds were provided with satisfactory standings and channels.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There are three private Slaughterhouses in the District, one less than the previous year.

The only meat slaughtered is for the retail business of the butchers concerned.

One of the slaughterhouses in Broadwood Parish was very small and in poor repair - this slaughterhouse has been enlarged and repaired with more suitable light and ventilation provided.

175 visits were paid for the purpose of meat inspection. The quality of the meat killed in the District is good, and it was only necessary to condemn as unfit for food the following:-

- 1 Pig carcase and offal.
- 7 Sheep carcases and offal.
- About 40 lbs. of Beef.
- 6 Pigs' heads.

Six of the above sheep carcases condemned were the result of lambing trouble.

WATER SUPPLIES.

There are no public water supplies in the District, but during the year a private reservoir was built and a piped

supply laid on to the various Cottages at Yeolmbridge.

With the exception of the above Hamlet, we have no Hamlets in the District with a sufficient collection of houses to warrant a public supply, neither is the provision of a public supply practicable for financial reasons.

Ten samples of water were taken for analysis; of these five were found to be unsatisfactory. All the defective supplies have been remedied.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Houses inspected	67
Visits to above	81
Houses repaired	18
Visits to houses during course of repairs and re-conditioning under Rural Workers' Acts	93
Houses overcrowded	2
Visits to:-	
Slaughterhouses etc.	175
Cowsheds & Dairies	149
New Houses	32
Schools	9
Water Supplies	44
Fumigations after infectious diseases	2
Fumigation of verminous houses	1
Complaints received	5
Nuisances abated	3
New Water-Closets provided	3
Interviews etc.	38
Letters written	105
Informal Notices served	36
" " complied with	29
Formal Notices served	6
" " complied with	5

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. A. JUDD,

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE IV. (continued)

Infectious Diseases.

<u>Prevalence low.</u>	<u>Total</u>	5.
Scarlet Fever	1	
Pneumonia	1	(died)
Erysipelas	3	

Tuberculosis.

New cases:- 2 (Lungs)

Ratio of non-notified to total Tubercular Deaths:- Nil.

Efficiency of Notifications in the area:- Good.

I would again like to thank the Sanitary Officer for the excellent work done by him in 1937, and would suggest that his remarks on Milk etc., are carefully noted. Needless to say, I am in complete agreement with him.

This concludes my Report.

E. G. SAUNDERS, M.B. B.S.

Medical Officer of Health.
